

Henry Atkins – Eastham Land Records 1650-1745

Henry Atkins was in Eastham by 1655. His first wife was Elizabeth Wells who died in Eastham in 1662. They had one child. Henry then married Bethiah Linnell in 1664. They had eight children. Henry held positions of Constable and Surveyor in Eastham. He died in Eastham in 1700. In his will Henry desired to be buried in the burying ground at Eastham so most likely he is in an unmarked grave at Cove Burying Ground.

The Eastham land records for Henry Atkins are few and they are confusing. Most of the records involve land grants to John Mayo of land lawfully possessed by Henry Atkins. How Atkins came to lawfully possess the land and what compensation, if any, given to Atkins when the land was granted to John Mayo is not revealed in the Eastham records.

1659

Five acres of land lawfully possessed by Henry Atkins next to land of John Mayo Jr. were granted to John Mayo as part of an eight acre grant to John Mayo for a house lot. Another acre of adjoining meadow continued to be possessed by Henry Atkins. PDF A168, M64.

Four acres of land lawfully possessed by Henry Atkins on the south side of the Cedar Swamp were granted to John Mayo. Bounds were indicated by marked trees. PDF A168, M65.

One and one-half acres lawfully possessed by Henry Atkins on the south side of the harbor's mouth towards Rock Harbor were granted to John Mayo. The property was between land of Nathaniel Mayo and Ralph Smith. Bounds were indicated by stakes. PDF A168, M65, M221.

One and one-half acres of meadow lawfully possessed by Henry Atkins at Boat Meadow at Common Cove were granted to John Mayo. The property was next to land of Richard Higgins. PDF A168, M65.

Three acres of meadow lawfully possessed by Henry Atkins at Great Meadow were granted to John Mayo. The property was next to land of Richard Higgins and near the Creek. Bounds were indicated by stakes and marked trees. PDF A168, M65.

1700

Granted to Henry Atkins land at the west end of his other land next to the Cedar Swamp and next to land of John Mayo. The dimensions indicate the grant was about one acre. Bounds were indicated by stones marked HA. PDF A168, M65, M66.

It is not clear how much land Henry Atkins owned at one time or another by purchase or grants. Probably his holdings were at least twenty acres. There appears to have been a close association with John Mayo. There are records of three other Atkins receiving Eastham land grants.